Degradation of ecological balance

2790. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India went down to tenth position in bio-diversity, from the second position after Brazil in 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to halt the accelerated process of degradation of natural environmental and ecological balance in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In 1990, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Resource Institute and World Wildlife Fund, identified twelve countries as megabiodiversity countries. The concept of megabiodiversity is based upon the species richness and endemism levels. The ranking among these twelve countries has been done on the basis of the number of species of flowering plants. As per this ranking, India occupies the tenth position. There has been no change in the ranking till now.

Working of Government schools in urban areas

† 2791. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any analytical study regarding management of Government run schools in urban areas, facilities available to students, teacher-student relations and the reasons for the students dropping out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government for proper functioning of such schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No specific studies with focus on urban areas on the issue of management of Government run schools, facilities available to the students, teacher-student relations, reasons for drop-out, etc., have been conducted.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.